

State will receive a minimum of \$15 million with the remaining being distributed to States based on criteria set by FEMA but will include population, vital infrastructure, military installations and proximity to international borders. The money will be used for preparedness efforts including to purchase equipment, train, develop response plans, conduct exercises and provide for communication needs. We ensure that the money does not get tied up in bureaucracy and gets to the first responders.

The bill also requires that all the efforts at the State and local level be part of a broader national preparedness strategy as determined by the Office of National Preparedness (ONP). The ONP was put in place by the President over a year ago, a move I have been advocating for some time, and the President deserves a great deal of credit for that action.

This bill takes the additional step of establishing the ONP in statute. The ONP will help to coordinate preparedness efforts at the Federal level and be the point Federal office for the State and local responders. It is vital that we do not have thousands of independent preparedness plans and efforts—we need a local, state, regional and national strategy.

The bill will also enhance the capabilities of FEMA designated Urban Search and Rescue teams. Many of those teams were activated on September 11, but have had serious financial difficulties in maintaining adequate levels of preparedness. That certainly should not be the case and we address those needs.

We all entered a new world and a new reality on September 11, and we must be prepared for whatever may come our way. The President has done a tremendous job to dramatically reduce the vulnerabilities of this Nation and I, once again, applaud his effort to establish a new Department of Homeland Security. However, regardless of how much we work to prevent further attacks, we must be prepared if the unthinkable were to happen again. This will be an ongoing effort and this bill takes a very large step in providing the resources and direction to ensure that the effort is productive.

I thank the chairman of the EPW Committee for his leadership and for working closely with me on this important and bipartisan issue. It is my hope that our bill will make it to the President's desk in short order.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COL. DAVID R. CHAFFEE

• Mr. THOMPSON. Madam President, today I pay tribute to a U.S. Air Force officer, Colonel David R. Chaffee. Colonel Chaffee currently serves as the Program Director of the Combat Air Forces Command and Control Systems

Program office at the Electronic Systems Center on Hanscom Air Force Base. He will soon retire from the Air Force after 25 years of service. Today, it is my privilege to recognize some of Colonel Chaffee's accomplishments, and to commend his service to the Air Force and our Nation.

Colonel Chaffee was born in Rockwood, TN, and began his Air Force career as a cadet at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Early in his career, he was an Aeronautical Developmental Engineer at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, OH, and later returned there as the Program Manager for the F100-PW-220 engine. After multiple, high-level acquisition positions at Headquarters in Washington, DC, he spent 2 years at the Ogden Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, UT as a Program Director before arriving in May 2000 at Hanscom Air Force Base for his current assignment.

Throughout his career, Colonel Chaffee won numerous awards for performance in the Acquisitions career field, including the General O'Malley Memorial Leadership Award in 1987 and the Clements Award in 1985. Additionally, he was a Distinguished Graduate from Squadron Officers School and Air Command and Staff College. He holds two master's degrees, one in Aeronautical Engineering from the Air Force Institute of Technology and one in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

At Hanscom Air Force Base, Colonel Chaffee's leadership contributed to the Combat Air Forces Command and Control Systems Program Office being regarded as a center of excellence for command and control and air battle management. This office provides integrated mission critical command and control tools that help create air tasking orders, plan combat sortie missions, and analyze weather information for planned targets. Colonel Chaffee's support for improved processes and innovation led to significant increases in program office performance.

Colonel David Chaffee has made a difference during his service to the Air Force and our Nation. He displayed a commitment to the men and women in his charge and was well known for mentoring junior officers. In addition, throughout his demanding career, Colonel Chaffee has been a family man, as he and his wife, Ann, raised three daughters, Lauren, Katelyn, and Jillian. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Colonel Chaffee and thanking him for his years of service.●

JERRY BLOCKER: IN HONOR OF HIS "LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD" PRESENTED BY THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS

• Mr. LEVIN. Madam President, during the turbulent social unrest of the 1960s in the U.S. and particularly Detroit, Jerry Blocker—a "skinny little kid

with the big voice"—often dominated the radio and television news business. His rise and success in the industry has been attributed to an imagination fueled by a strong sense of drama, and his ability to craft a calm, orderly objectivity out of news ripe with disorder, rawness, and uncertainty.

Born on the west side of Detroit on February 14, 1931, Jerry Blocker's arrival on Valentine's Day was unheralded during the height of the Great Depression. Because of the Depression, Jerry's parents and family bestowed upon him the only gifts they could afford: an abundance of love and pride. Those generous gifts carried dividends the remainder of his life.

During his early years at Columbian and Sampson elementary schools, Jerry Blocker thrived while participating in school plays. Later, while attending McMichael Intermediate he became interested in all activities associated with radio. By the time he reached Northwestern High School, it was recognized that the "skinny little kid with the big voice" was destined for a future in the media. At Wayne State University in the mid-1950s, Jerry honed his broadcast skills but discovered that minorities were not to be found working in the broadcast business. His dream would have to wait. In the late 1950s Jerry became a teacher, first serving at Hampton Institute in Virginia, then with the Detroit Board of Education. His flair for the dramatic became evident as he staged plays, pageants, and festivals to the delight of hundreds of children.

In 1961, Jerry Blocker finally found employment in the radio industry when WCHD entered the general-format radio market as the first of many stations. In 1967, Jerry became the first black television news anchorman in the state of Michigan, working for WWJ-TV Channel 4, now known as WDIV-TV. He was hired by Channel 4 after the 1967 Detroit riots and anchored weekend newscasts until 1975. After his departure from WWJ, Jerry Blocker was hired as the television news director of Channel 62, the first television station to actively recruit from and program for Detroit's African-American community. Jerry Blocker won several awards for his distinguished and accurate broadcast professionalism.

During his 10-year career in television, Jerry Blocker witnessed and reported the events which helped shape Detroit and the nation in the years immediately following the advent of U.S. Civil Rights legislation: the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., the challenge of the Detroit NAACP and the Detroit Board of Education, which was eventually settled by the U.S. Supreme Court, and the tremendous effect on the tri-county area and on all of Michigan by the election of Coleman A. Young, Detroit's first black mayor.

In 1977, Blocker was named executive director of the Detroit branch of the